**Friends of Innerpeffray Library**

**Annual General Meeting**

**12 April 2023**

**School Room, Innerpeffray Library**

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Jean Anne Scott Millar, Roddy Riddell, Jenny Riddell, Stephen Rawles, Kirsty Macdonald, John Mauchline, Barbara McGarva, Morag Hamilton.

The committee was represented by Joan Taylor, Iain Gilmour, Pamela Haggart, Charles Crookshanks and Shona McLaren with 20 members of Friends of Innerpeffray Library in attendance.

Joan Taylor (Convenor) welcomed everyone to the thirtieth AGM of Friends of Innerpeffray Library.

1. **Minutes from the previous AGM held in September 2022**:

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Proposed by: Iain Gilmour

Seconded by: Charles Crookshank

1. **Convenor’s Report:**

**Report for the year to 31st December 2022**

After two very difficult years and despite the ongoing restrictions for certain events the Friends committee approached 2022 with some degree of optimism. However parts of the 2022 season were also somewhat blighted by cancellations due to ‘unforeseen circumstances’ – with Covid, the death of Her Majesty the Queen and inclement weather all playing their part.

We were able to re-schedule our visit to Dunira and over two days experienced glorious weather while the sixty or so supporters saw the amazing ‘work in progress’ as the spectacular gardens are reborn. We are most grateful to Mr Stuart Grant and his wife Amy for facilitating this visit; Julian Schad, Christopher Dingwall and Jamie Thomson also shared their expertise and enthusiasm.

The inaugural concert of the Caledonian Chamber Orchestra took place in the Chapel at the end of August. Again we were blessed with glorious weather and inspired by the talents of young musicians many of whom had travelled from all over the UK and Europe, local girl Briona Mannion gave a memorable performance of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto. Huge thanks are due to Peter Banks who not only organised the course and rehearsals but took up the baton when the conductor Edward Longstaff was struck down with something referred to as Covid.

Sadly the talk by Sue Lawrence had to be postponed along with the rest of September’s Festival of Reading programme because of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. We were unable to re-schedule Sue’s visit for the 2023 season but I am delighted to report that Innerpeffray will host the launch of her next cookery book in September 2024. Several of the recipes in this book are reworked from by those of Mrs MacIver whose book so inspired Sue during her visit to Innerpeffray Library.

The Christmas Fayre in November generated increased income for the Friends. Indeed our range of pickles and chutney’s are considered *de rigeur* as an addition to any culinary inspired Christmas stocking! Apart from the ladies of the committee thanks must also go to Frances Wishart. Alison Strang and Steph Haxton for their contributions and to Graham Donaldson of Gordon and Durward whose ‘sweeties and tablet’ add much to our stall.

The three performances of ‘Carols at Innerpeffray’ in December were a sell-out; in the Library itself on Saturday and the traditional service in the Chapel the following day. Huge thanks are due to the Innerpeffray Singers and the readers at both venues. While three performances back to back is quite an ‘ask’ for the Choir and organisers the very favourable feedback from audiences at both venues and monies raised encourages a repeat of the format in 2023

As a result of fund-raising events and membership subscription we were able to transfer £7000.00 to the Trustees of the Mortification. I am delighted that some of the money raised by the Friends in 2022 has purchased new staging which can be easily transported and adapted for use in the Chapel, the Schoolroom and the Library. The black boxes which have played their part for many years are redundant. A relief to those of us who have had to remove them from the green shed to the Chapel and back again. The Friends have also supported Maddertie Month in March for a second year. This encourages people to visit the Library at no cost, the entrance fee being subsidised it is good to report that there has been a significant increase in those visiting in March 2023.

The Friends will also provide financial backing as well as practical help for the visit of the Three Inch Fools in July.

We have worked hard to develop a programme that supports and enhances Library events. It is also important that our events appeal to a wide range of people of all ages. I hope that you will agree that our programme for next year provides a suitably eclectic mix.

We begin with a concert in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III, on **Sunday 7th May at 3.30pm** in the Chapel. If you enjoy the Carols you will certainly enjoy this concert, led by the Innerpeffray Singers.

**Saturday 3rd June** we welcome Tern:

Named after the migrating bird of the Nordic regions, Tern is a 5-piece folk band, winners of the Danny Kyle Open Stage at Celtic Connections 2023 and composed of Rose Logan (Scotland - Fiddle), Kristina Leesik (Sweden - Fiddle), Lea Søndergaard Larsen (Denmark - Bodhran), Miguel Girão (Portugal - Guitar) and BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2023 Amy Laurenson (Scotland - Piano). Tern crafts contemporary arrangements of traditional and original material, which draw on the music of Shetland, mainland Scotland and Scandinavia.

**Saturday 10th June** we present ‘Ask the Gardeners’, again in the chapel your questions horticultural will be addressed and problems solved by a panel of local experts.

Full details of all events at the Library and how to book are detailed in the What’s On section of the website.

I also wish to thank Bellsie Connell for her support and friendship during her term as Chair of the Governors. In the short period of his tenure I think that her successor, Martyn Wade, and I have established a good working relationship and understanding and I hope that this will be reflected in projects such as the Innerpeffray Register which is the 21st century equivalent of the Borrower’s Register and the new flyer which highlights ways to support the Library.

Being a member of FOIL presents good value for money apart from free admission to the Library whenever you wish this year we will offer 2 bookable tours with the Keeper of Books and attendance at the Ted Powell lecture in October for no cost. All members of FOIL will be entitled to leave their leaf on the Innerpeffray register.

Behind the scenes the Friends Committee has been working very hard to bring membership records and the constitution up to date I am most grateful to my committee who have been incredibly supportive to me in my role as Convenor.

Thank you to Barbara, Charles, Gillian, Iain, John, Kirsty, Pamela and Shona.

The years of lockdown and Covid provided Innerpeffray Library with many challenges and difficulties. It is testimony to the support of the Friends of Innerpeffray Library, the Trustees, Volunteers and The Keeper of Books that the Library is thriving and moving forward where many other organisations have failed. This time has also seen the community of the Library work closely together to promote what we all know to be something very special. It is important that we promote a living Library and ensure that the legacy of Innerpeffray lives on.

This year we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Innerpeffray Library. The pandemic has made us all look at the way we have done things in the past and, perhaps, consider how we will approach things in the future. While the acronym FOIL means much to many of us in this room I believe that the term ‘Friend’ holds more resonance and makes our position at Innerpeffray clear.

Last year Jean Ann Scott Miller gave an entertaining and enlightening talk about being a Friend of Innerpeffray Library. In celebration of our 30th Anniversary and to explain our raison d’etre I have asked her to reproduce an edited version for our web page; this reminded us that the roots and support of Friends of Innerpeffray Library stretches back over the centuries and we are the 21st century holders and custodians of the title.

There are many ways of being a Friend of the Library – are you an associate, a contact, a playmate, an acquaintance, a colleague, a patron, a supporter, an investor or a benefactor? As a Friend of Innerpeffray Library the choice is great as are the benefits to the Library.

Here’s to the next 30 years.

Joan Taylor,

Convenor, Friends of Innerpeffray Library

April 2023

1. **Financial Report**:

Iain Gilmour shared with the meeting that there are 463 Friends of Innerpeffray membership of assorted varieties. We hold email addresses cover 89% of the membership. Iain requested that members remembered to update their details if they changed their email addresses. There will also be a request to the missing 11% of members to share their email addresses to make communication with all our members more efficient.

**Treasurer’s report for the year to December 2022**

(read by Joan Taylor on behalf of John Mauchline)

The financial position of Friends of Innerpeffray Library for the year to December 2022 is shown in the following accounts which have been Independently Examined by Frank Strang, and are considered satisfactory.

The year 2022 was a transition from the pressures of COVID to a nearly normal year.

As at the year-end the bank balance was a positive £8,806 of which we committed to donate £7,000 to the Innerpeffray Mortification Trust.

The Convenor has detailed the allocation of this expenditure.

This year’s donation places emphasis on how important our combination of membership subscriptions and activities are in maintaining a steady source of funding for the Library.

The current year looks to supplement this further as we progress with a programme of activities.

We had planned to introduce a new membership software, but this has been delayed due to ensuring we have resource to implement and to maintain it ongoing.

John Mauchline

(Outgoing Treasurer)

April 2023

Accounts proposed by: Charles Crookshank

Seconded by: Peter Parke

Nomination of Frank Strang as Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2023.

Proposed by: Iain Gilmour

Seconded by: Louise Powell

1. **Election of Office Bearers:**

**Convenor** – Joan Taylor

Proposed by: Dorothy McLaughlin

Seconded: Louise Powell

**Secretary** – Kirsty Macdonald

Proposed by: Pamela Haggart

Seconded by: Tony Moodie

**Treasurer** – Shona McLaren

Proposed by: Pamela Haggart

Seconded by: Iain Gilmour

All existing members of the committee happy to stand again with the support of the room and FOIL members.

**Vote of thanks to Lara Haggarty**

By Iain Gilmour:

We fully recognise within Friends of Innerpeffray Library that we couldn’t do what we do without the co-operation and support of Lara, manager of the Library and Keeper of Books. The AGM affords an opportunity to put our appreciation on record.

So, I would like to express my own gratitude and that of the committee and membership for all the hard work done and the support provided to us throughout the year by Lara. She is always available to lend a willing hand and to offer sound advice, despite her considerable ongoing commitments managing the day to day running of the library.

She is greatly assisted in her endeavours by Naomi, to whom I also extend this vote of thanks. Our working relationship has grown closer over recent years. We all look forward to this continuing, mutually supporting each other in our efforts as we meet and overcome challenges for the benefit of the library, our membership and the wider community. So, Lara and Naomi, on behalf of us all...thank you.

1. **AOCB**

No matters arising

Joan Taylor gave thanks to the members for their continued support.

Lara introduced the Library’s new Register and invited all the members present to complete a form which will be entered into a new Book of Register. The forms will be collated and held as a new register of visitors and members.The original Borrowers Register was started in 1747 and a new Visitors Book was added in 1859.

Entertainment was provided by Naomi Harvey who gave a very entertaining and enlightening talk titled ‘New Words to Old Tunes’ which was based around the Librarys current themes of Library of Learning and There’s Nothing New. Naomi took inspiration from the music and song books from the collection of Janet Saint Germain held by the Library.

Charles Crookshank thanked Naomi for her interesting and entertaining talk.